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Insights into hours worked, August 2022

Released 15/09/2022

Source: [Labour Force, Australia, August 2022](#)

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The ABS will continue to monitor changes in hours worked and provide additional analysis when relevant.

Key findings

Hours worked increased by 14.5 million hours (0.8%) in seasonally adjusted terms between July and August 2022, and employment increased by 33,500 people (0.2%). Throughout the pandemic, the hours worked series shows larger short-term changes compared to the employed series, given that employees may have been away from paid work for a short period without losing their job.

The rise in hours worked in August occurred after the winter school holidays in July, further flooding events in New South Wales, and worker absences associated with COVID and other illnesses.

Chart 1 shows that, despite the volatility in recent years, both the hours worked series and employment series have recovered above their pre-pandemic levels, with hours increasing 4.8% and employment increasing 4.5% since March 2020.

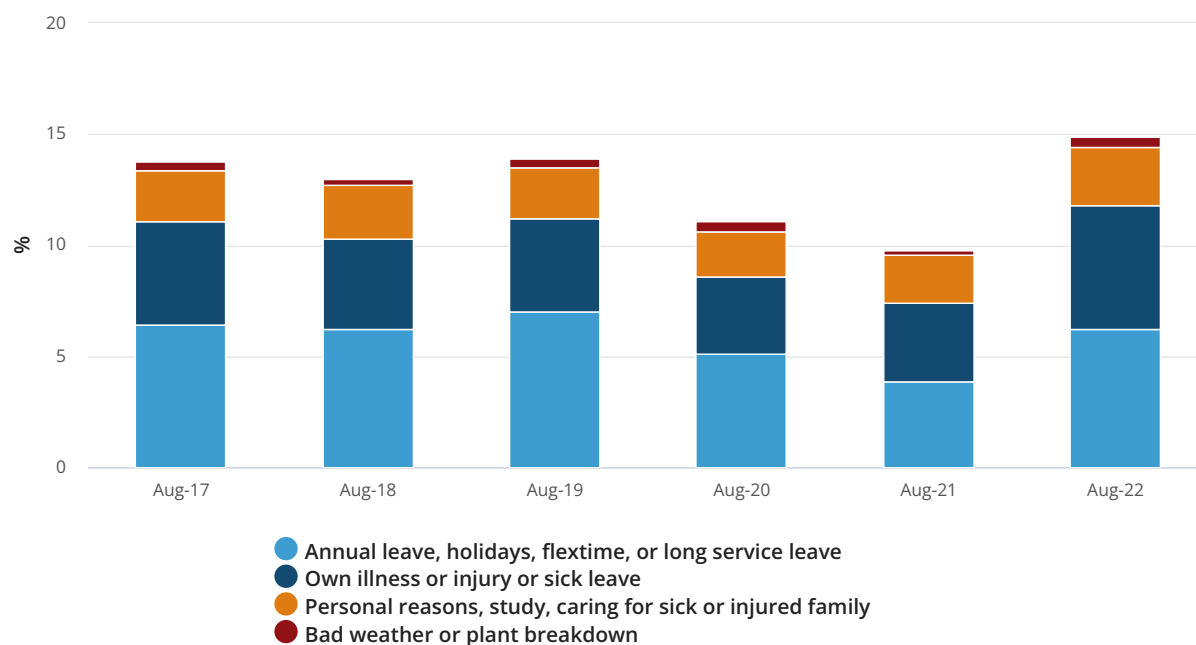
Chart 1: Hours worked and employment index, Seasonally adjusted (March



Source: Labour Force, Australia Tables 1 and 19

Chart 2 shows disruptions from illness related absences have impacted on people working fewer hours than usual.

Chart 2: Proportion of employed people who worked fewer than usual hours for selected reasons in August, Original

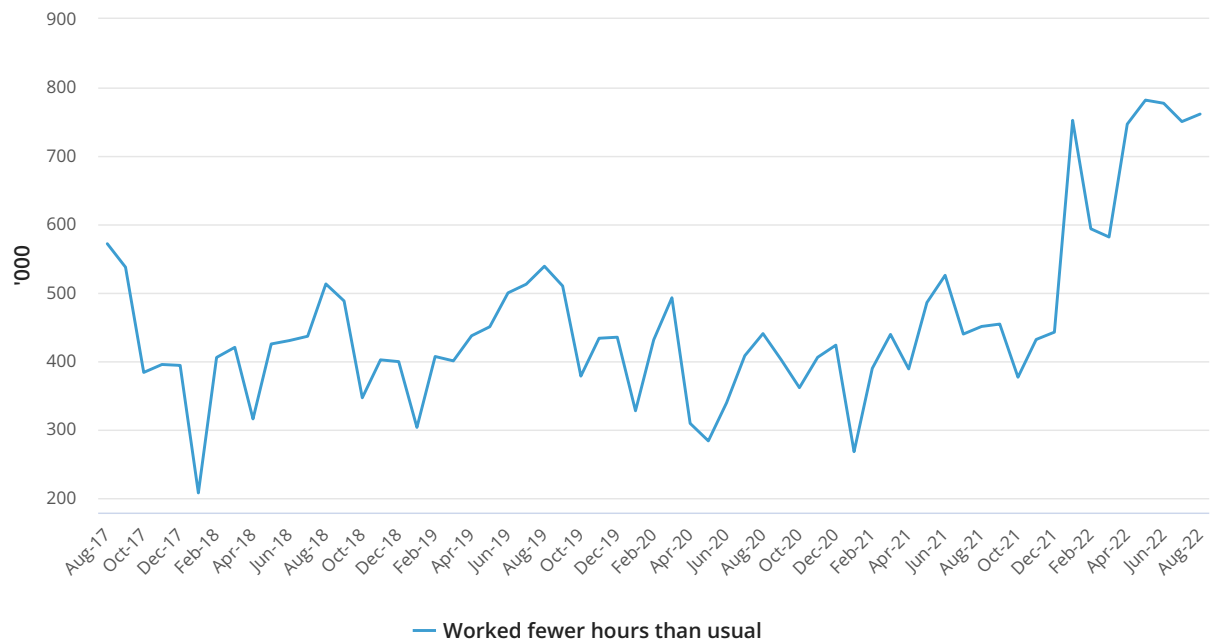


Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a and Table 1

People working fewer hours than usual due to their own illness or injury or sick leave

Chart 3 shows the number of people working fewer hours due to illness increased 11,000 people to 761,000 people, between July and August 2022.

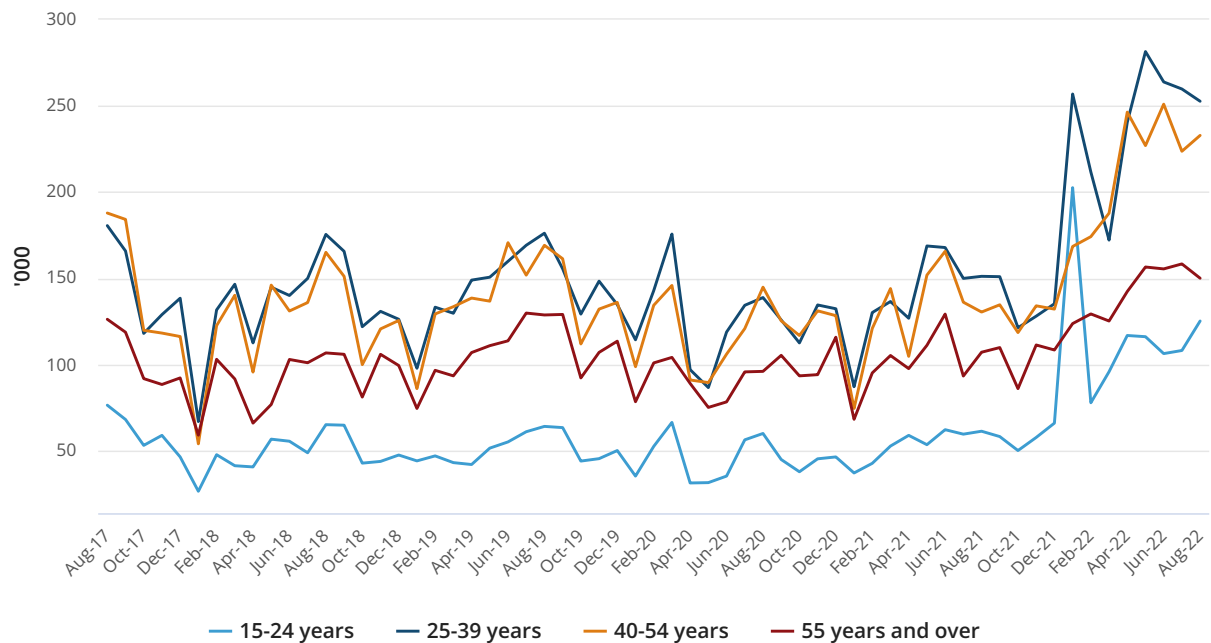
Chart 3: Employed people working fewer hours than usual due to their own illness or injury or sick leave, Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a

Chart 4 shows the number of people working fewer hours due to illness remained at elevated levels for all age groups.

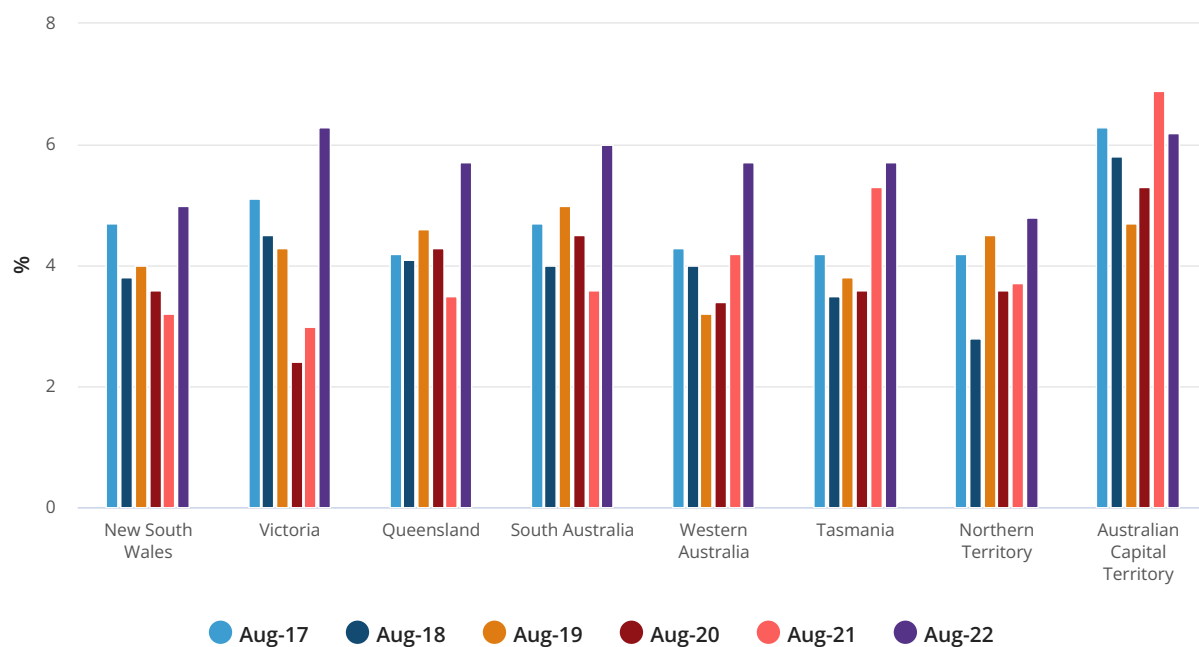
Chart 4: Employed people who worked fewer hours than usual due to own illness or injury or sick leave, by age group, Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2a

Chart 5 shows the proportion of people working reduced hours due to illness was elevated in all states and territories in August 2022, compared to previous Augusts.

Chart 5: Proportion of employed people who worked fewer hours than usual due to own illness or injury or sick leave, by state and territory, Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia Data Cube EM2b and Table 12